

HA-822

LAURETTA HARRIS HOUSE

Havre de Grace, Md.

c. early 19th century

There are many small houses on alley sites in Havre de Grace but the Lauretta Harris house is possibly the only one constructed of brick left. It is one and one half stories high, two bays wide and two bays deep with brick laid in common bond. The house has a gable roof with the ridge parallel to the street and a long, north ward slope giving the structure a brick salt box appearance from the west (alley) elevation.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

LAURETTA HARRIS HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

545 Lafayette St.

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mrs. Harry Reasin

Telephone #: 301-939-2463

STREET &amp; NUMBER

801 S. Washington St.

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

— VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE

zip code  
21078**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 248

Folio #: 283

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air, Maryland

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

HA-822

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This small, detached, brick dwelling is located on the corner of Freedom Alley at 549 Lafayette Street, facing south. It is one-and-one-half stories high, two bays wide and two bays deep with brick laid in common bond. The old walls of the house are being covered gradually with new brick which now reaches the second floor in some places. Most of the first floor windows are incorporated into the new facade. A one story, cinder-block addition which appears to have replaced a wood porch is on the northeast wall. On the east elevation above the addition is a small triangular section where the wall is clapboard.

Most windows are one-over-one light, double hung sash; however, the two second floor facade windows and gable end windows are smaller than those on the first floor. Alterations in the brick on the south end, east elevation indicate there was once a window opening there.

The entrance door with a stone sill beneath it is located in the east bay of the south elevation; it is modern with three diamond shaped lights.

The house has a gable roof with the ridge parallel to the street and a long, northward slope giving the structure the appearance of a brick salt box from the west (alley) elevation. Although covered with tar paper, the roof retains its earlier wood shingles.

On the facade is a narrow, one stretcher course brick cornice with a narrow fascia board above it. A brick chimney stack is centered near the end of the north slope of the roof.

The house has a small overgrown garden in the back.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There are many small houses on alley sites in Havre de Grace but the Laurretta Harris house is possibly the only one constructed of brick left. The 1798 tax list for Harford County mentions several one-story brick buildings of the same size as this one. The chain of title for this building appears to have some early land deeds missing; thus it is not possible to trace the lot on which the building stands back farther than 1837.

Alley houses and those built on the corner of alleys have many characteristics in common. Besides their location, their size and scale are usually the same: no more than one-and-a-half stories high, two to three bays wide and two rooms deep. Another characteristic they share is their plain and simple details of fenestration, entrances, roof treatment and so forth. Many of this simple type of dwelling was used for tenement housing and may be connected with the Black History of the community. The Laurretta Harris House is a good example of such an early 19th, or possibly 18th, century small dwelling; its shape and material--a brick saltbox--make it unusual.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marion Morton - Architectural Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

September, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

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1. HDC 755 566 August 4, 1967  
Grantors: Grayson Woodberry and Mary Hollahan Woodbury, his wife  
Grantee: Edna M. Poole  
"part of lot #443 and strip for ingress and egress"
  2. SWC 221 471 January 11, 1932  
Grantor: John Walsh  
Grantee: Edward Hollahan
  3. JAR 166 112 October 28, 1919  
Grantor: Annie C. Vandiver  
Grantee: John Walsh
  4. ALJ 9 5 May 22, 1857  
Grantor: Henry Archer, trustee  
Grantee: Robert Vandiver  
Equity Case: Jacob Tome et. al., creditors of James Boyd, complainants;  
Richard Brown, defendant  
Sale of 15 lots May 18, 1849  
Lot 631 (lot 631 part of lot 443 on Hopper Map of  
Havre de Grace)  
\$13.00 per lot
  5. HD 22 339 September 7, 1839  
Grantor: Dr. John Boyd  
Grantees: Julianna Hall and Washington P. Chase  
\$3,100 for 13 lots, 443 mentioned
  6. HD 20 275 November 13, 1837  
Grantor: John Stump, trustee for Mark Pringle  
Grantee: Washington P. Chase  
31 lots mentioned, H - 361 among them



Garrett Island

HA-822

HAVRE DE GRACE

Concord Pt Lighthouse

NATIONAL GUARD RESERVATION

Oakington Station

Havre de Grace Consolidated Sch





LAURETTA HARRIS HOUSE HA-822  
549 Lafayette St., Havre de Grace  
Marion Monton, August, 1976  
Southwest elevation